Winnipeg

CITY OF WINNIPEG POLICY NO. CO-019

POLICY TITLE	ADOPTED BY	EFFECTIVE DATE
City of Winnipeg Plebiscites	City Council	October 28, 2021
ORIGIN / AUTHORITY	**CITY POLICY NO**	**MOST RECENT CONSOLIDATION**
Executive Policy Committee	CO-019	

1. Purpose:

To guide the use of ballot questions in the City of Winnipeg.

2. Definitions:

2.1 **"question"** means a vote on a plebiscite as approved by Council

2.2 **"election"** means a vote held under *The City of Winnipeg Charter*

2.3 **"voter"** means a voter under the definition of eligibility under *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act*

2.4 **"third parties"** means individuals, corporations or unions that incur expenses for advertisements in relation to a ballot question

3. Policies:

3.1 All questions added to the ballot are for information only and are non-binding.

3.2 Questions to be added to or removed from the ballot will occur upon resolution by City Council, with a 2/3rds vote of members present required.

3.3 Resolutions adding questions to the ballot for a General Election must be adopted no more than 1 year prior to the date of the election and no less than 90 days prior to the date of the election.

3.4 Removal of a question from the ballot must occur no less than 90 days prior to the date of the election.

3.5 A question to be voted on by the voters must be on a matter over which the City of Winnipeg has jurisdiction.

3.6 The Senior Election Official will create a section of the election website containing information regarding the election question. Factual information and links to factual information will be posted on the election website at the sole discretion of the Senior Election Official.

3.7 A question must request a clear “yes” or “no” answer and be neutral so as not to influence the voter in regard to ballot choices.

3.8 A question will be worded as per the resolution of City Council.

3.9 Questions shall be less than 50 words in length.

3.10 A maximum of two (2) questions will be allowed on the ballot of any 1 general election.

3.11 All voting rules and procedures for the question shall be in accordance with *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act.*

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Prior to approval of any question, Council shall consult with the City Clerk and request a report for advice related to:

A. Potential costs associated with adding the ballot question;

B. Wording of the ballot question; and

C. Other considerations related to the ballot question.